

Chip Raman – Bio

Chip Raman was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Aged five, Chip was introduced to carpentry by his paternal grandfather. Concurrently, armed with pencils, crayons and a pad of paper Chip developed a practical interest in drawing although it did not become a consuming passion until his mid-teens. Growing up, his father's big band and classical music lp recordings could often be heard in the Raman home, and the youngster quickly learned to identify what instruments were being played. His three older sisters were responsible for introducing Chip to pop/rock music beginning with the Beatles appearances on the Ed Sullivan show through to the explosion of late 60's and early 70's "classic rock" bands. Raman enjoyed his first flirtation with the guitar at the age of fourteen, and again, for a short time, two years later, but his focus settled on mastering the instrument at the age of eighteen when he took lessons for a time. Chip also plays a little piano, and has 'tinkered' with banjo, harmonica and percussion instruments.

During the eighties, Chip was lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist in the band Allies, and their shows consisted of Neil Young, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Jackson Browne and Bob Seger covers and Raman penned originals. During its existence the band managed to record a number of demos. During that decade Raman gained a BFA in Woodworking and Psychoanalytic Art Therapy from Philadelphia University of the Arts. The course also included forays into metal-smithing and glass blowing. During his sophomore year, having picked up a copy of the book **"Drawings By Troubled Adolescents,"** Chip was inspired by what he saw and added a major in Art Therapy to Woodworking.

In 1988 Chip relocated to Berkeley, California where he enrolled as a Clinical Psychology and Expressive Arts Therapy major at JFK University that included a specialization in Music Therapy. Concurrently Chip pursued his interest in performing and writing music. As a guitarist he switched from flat-picking to finger-picking and regularly performed at Bay Area open mics including Berkeley's legendary folk venue Freight and Salvage. After graduating from JFK, Chip taught music, arts and poetry to children at a Montessori school for a time. Raman first attended the Kerrville Folk Festival in 1995, and has been a regular attendee ever since. The following year Chip moved back to Philadelphia, and for a number of years worked as a counselor caring for emotionally troubled children at a residential treatment facility. In the last decade Chip has been filling the walls and ceiling of his Philadelphia home/studio, The Artcave, with his paintings.

A visit to Raman's web site [www.chipraman.com] will prove that he is an accomplished artist whether the style is surrealism or portraiture. Numerous striking examples of his work grace the twenty-four page **"Edge Of A Song"** liner booklet. The twelve track **"Edge Of A Song,"** produced by Raman and Asheville based musician Chris Rosser, was released in late 2007, and featured contributions from Kerrville regulars Adam & Kris, Chuck Brodsky, Jamie Byrd, Joe Carlson, Brian Cutean, Darlene, Steve Fisher, Stefanie Fix, Lowry Olafson, Don Porterfield and Dirje Smith. Raman has stated that his musical influences include Bruce Cockburn, Neil Young, Michael Hedges, Jorma Kaukonen and Jackson Browne.

Discography : **"Edge Of A Song"** [2007] :

Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 10/07.

[535 words]